

Committee Name: **Senate Committee –** **Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy** **(SC–JCP)**

Appointments

03hr_SC–JCP_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

03hr_SC–JCP_CH_pt00

Committee Reports

03hr_SC–JCP_CR_pt00

Clearinghouse Rules

03hr_SC–JCP_CRule_03–

Executive Sessions

03hr_SC–JCP_ES_pt00

Hearing Records

03hr_ab0922

03hr_sb0000

Misc.

03hr_SC–JCP_Misc_pt00

Record of Committee Proceedings

03hr_SC–JCP_RCP_pt00



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Editorial: The state's court obligation

From the Journal Sentinel

Posted: March 4, 2004

Here's proof that it's still possible for elected officials to put aside partisan and city-county-rural differences for the greater public good. A bill that would help Wisconsin counties pay for the operation of their court systems is scheduled for a hearing today by a state Senate committee.

The bill would raise court filing fees to provide an additional \$4.8 million for the courts. Failure to act on the bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin) and Sen. Ted Kanavas (R-Brookfield), will hurt courts throughout the state.

Without the additional \$1.8 million that Milwaukee County would receive under this measure, officials here will have no choice but to slash vital court operations later this year. The required cuts "would be unimaginable," said Supervisor Richard Nyklewicz Jr., chairman of the Milwaukee County Board's Finance Committee.

Such cutbacks must be averted. An analysis prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau shows the measure would help not just Milwaukee County, but other jurisdictions as well. It would mean \$328,197 in additional revenue for Waukesha County, \$280,721 for Dane County and \$213,770 for Brown County. Obviously, counties need this money to finance a vital public service - a service that the state requires counties to provide.

The measure would entail raising filing fees by 10.8%, effective July 1. That increase would be added to the 30% boost in the state portion of the filing fees over the past two years. The problem is that while the state has raised its fees, its appropriation to pay for court-appointed attorneys has stayed the same since 1995. The additional dollars would be used to pay for court-appointed attorneys and for English interpreters when needed.

We have written often about the need for communities and officials to work together. That's exactly what occurred here. Milwaukee County officials - including County Exec Scott Walker, Chief Judge Michael Sullivan, Board Chairman Lee Holloway and Nyklewicz - worked hand in hand with Waukesha County Executive Dan Finley, Waukesha County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer, the Wisconsin Counties Association and Gundrum and Kanavas to get this far.

It's up to the Legislature now to see this through.

From the March 5, 2004 editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Calendar Year 2002 data. Calendar Year 2003 actual payments would vary from these amounts.

District	County	CY 2002 GAL Expenditures	FY 2003-2004 GAL Payment (for CY 2002 Costs)	CY 2002 GAL Recoupment	Net CY 2002 GAL Expenditures	Formula Distribution of \$9.6M Total	Increase from Current Payment
6	Adams	\$20,340	\$20,340	\$5,447	(\$5,447)	\$20,340	\$0
10	Ashland	\$49,625	\$18,730	\$19,608	\$11,287	\$49,625	\$30,895
10	Barron	\$129,418	\$42,471	\$51,259	\$35,688	\$129,418	\$86,947
10	Bayfield	\$19,148	\$18,377	\$16,888	(\$16,117)	\$19,148	\$771
8	Brown	\$376,807	\$163,037	\$214,066	(\$296)	\$376,807	\$213,770
7	Buffalo	\$18,639	\$12,220	\$3,751	\$2,668	\$18,639	\$6,419
10	Burnett	\$49,004	\$18,545	\$33,198	(\$2,739)	\$49,004	\$30,459
4	Calumet	\$28,080	\$24,350	\$515	\$3,215	\$28,080	\$3,730
10	Chippewa	\$53,616	\$47,735	\$25,414	(\$19,533)	\$53,616	\$5,881
6	Clark	\$34,920	\$27,667	\$9,710	(\$2,457)	\$34,920	\$7,253
6	Columbia	\$143,189	\$60,063	\$97,854	(\$14,728)	\$143,189	\$83,126
7	Crawford	\$62,192	\$20,869	\$12,384	\$28,939	\$62,192	\$41,323
5	Dane	\$602,991	\$322,270	\$8,456	\$272,265	\$602,991	\$280,721
8	Dodge	\$109,888	\$68,629	\$22,002	\$19,257	\$109,888	\$41,259
8	Door	\$58,476	\$33,041	\$18,569	\$6,866	\$58,476	\$25,435
10	Douglas	\$41,118	\$40,595	\$16,936	(\$16,413)	\$41,118	\$523
10	Dunn	\$86,202	\$44,560	\$39,889	\$1,753	\$86,202	\$41,642
10	Eau Claire	\$103,635	\$100,718	\$38,128	(\$35,211)	\$103,635	\$2,917
9	Florence	\$6,201	\$4,957	\$0	\$1,244	\$6,201	\$1,244
4	Fond Du Lac	\$179,500	\$98,514	\$126,788	(\$45,802)	\$179,500	\$80,986
9	Forest	\$16,070	\$12,367	\$0	\$3,703	\$16,070	\$3,703
7	Grant	\$85,486	\$40,421	\$70,219	(\$25,154)	\$85,486	\$45,065
5	Green	\$53,468	\$27,280	\$15,231	\$10,957	\$53,468	\$26,188
6	Green Lake	\$48,234	\$20,547	\$15,260	\$12,427	\$48,234	\$27,687
7	Iowa	\$36,398	\$24,862	\$22,588	(\$11,052)	\$36,398	\$11,536
9	Iron	\$13,210	\$11,259	\$3,275	(\$1,324)	\$13,210	\$1,951
7	Jackson	\$14,850	\$14,850	\$6,037	(\$6,037)	\$14,850	\$0
3	Jefferson	\$203,522	\$79,033	\$73,878	\$50,611	\$203,522	\$124,489
6	Juneau	\$99,919	\$33,928	\$23,894	\$42,097	\$99,919	\$65,991
2	Kenosha	\$247,712	\$136,902	\$100,321	\$10,489	\$247,712	\$110,810
8	Kewaunee	\$52,034	\$15,239	\$4,048	\$32,747	\$52,034	\$36,795
7	La Crosse	\$191,026	\$93,657	\$9,550	\$87,819	\$191,026	\$97,369
5	Lafayette	\$103,338	\$18,545	\$20,097	\$64,696	\$72,141	\$53,596
9	Langlade	\$32,988	\$22,670	\$3,409	\$6,909	\$32,988	\$10,318
9	Lincoln	\$55,468	\$32,491	\$33,300	(\$10,323)	\$55,468	\$22,977
4	Manitowoc	\$155,047	\$60,662	\$65,287	\$29,098	\$155,047	\$94,385
9	Marathon	\$152,458	\$95,100	\$59,179	(\$1,821)	\$152,458	\$57,358
8	Marinette	\$88,799	\$37,573	\$41,541	\$9,685	\$88,799	\$51,226
6	Marquette	\$90,692	\$19,795	\$29,584	\$41,313	\$76,728	\$56,933
9	Menominee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1	Milwaukee	\$2,816,557	\$1,013,662	\$157,517	\$1,645,378	\$2,816,558	\$1,802,896
7	Monroe	\$16,235	\$16,235	\$3,053	(\$3,053)	\$16,235	\$0
8	Oconto	\$70,335	\$35,686	\$44,257	(\$9,608)	\$70,335	\$34,649
9	Oneida	\$55,538	\$39,019	\$1,174	\$15,345	\$55,538	\$16,519
8	Outagamie	\$121,919	\$121,919	\$45,188	(\$45,188)	\$121,919	\$0
3	Ozaukee	\$54,287	\$54,287	\$21,157	(\$21,157)	\$54,287	\$0
7	Pepin	\$26,473	\$6,353	\$3,634	\$16,486	\$24,821	\$18,468
7	Pierce	\$17,437	\$17,437	\$7,817	(\$7,817)	\$17,437	\$0
10	Polk	\$50,882	\$38,503	\$10,769	\$1,811	\$50,882	\$12,379
6	Portage	\$73,366	\$55,075	\$24,542	(\$6,251)	\$73,366	\$18,291
9	Price	\$31,778	\$16,319	\$12,711	\$2,748	\$31,778	\$15,459
2	Racine	\$297,800	\$175,905	\$67,302	\$54,593	\$297,800	\$121,895
7	Richland	\$47,181	\$18,082	\$14,697	\$14,402	\$47,181	\$29,099
5	Rock	\$157,862	\$144,836	\$97,662	(\$84,636)	\$157,862	\$13,026
10	Rusk	\$40,890	\$17,644	\$6,887	\$16,359	\$40,890	\$23,246
6	Sauk	\$157,969	\$64,824	\$50,774	\$42,371	\$157,969	\$93,145
10	Sawyer	\$14,669	\$14,669	\$16,654	(\$16,654)	\$14,669	\$0
9	Shawano	\$27,980	\$27,900	\$27,126	(\$27,046)	\$27,980	\$80
4	Sheboygan	\$83,753	\$76,830	\$5,620	\$1,303	\$83,753	\$6,923
10	St. Croix	\$85,151	\$79,026	\$10,464	(\$4,339)	\$85,151	\$6,125
9	Taylor	\$43,989	\$16,337	\$26,245	\$1,407	\$43,989	\$27,652
7	Trempealeau	\$70,157	\$24,149	\$19,225	\$26,783	\$70,157	\$46,008
7	Vernon	\$26,169	\$20,275	\$1,544	\$4,350	\$26,169	\$5,894
9	Vilas	\$18,981	\$18,981	\$1,449	(\$1,449)	\$18,981	\$0
2	Walworth	\$131,885	\$76,389	\$41,350	\$13,946	\$131,885	\$55,296
10	Washburn	\$34,469	\$20,505	\$10,097	\$3,867	\$34,468	\$13,963
3	Washington	\$188,686	\$70,868	\$170,323	(\$52,505)	\$188,686	\$117,818
3	Waukesha	\$533,462	\$205,265	\$218,979	\$109,218	\$533,462	\$328,197
8	Waupaca	\$72,033	\$53,375	\$5,582	\$13,076	\$72,033	\$18,658
6	Waushara	\$27,751	\$26,060	\$17,277	(\$15,586)	\$27,751	\$1,691
4	Winnebago	\$281,326	\$130,900	\$18,745	\$131,681	\$281,326	\$150,426
6	Wood	\$56,336	\$56,316	\$0	\$20	\$56,336	\$20
Totals		\$9,646,813.76	\$4,738,500.00	\$2,517,379.86	\$2,390,933.90	\$9,600,001	\$4,861,501